

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

REC'D 17 JAN 2001

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 7312M/VB	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/US99/24824	International filing date (day/month/year) 22/10/1999	Priority date (day/month/year) 23/10/1998
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC C11D3/22		
<p>Applicant THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY et al.</p>		
<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 7 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of 14 sheets.</p>		
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report II <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Priority III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited VII <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application VIII <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application 		

Date of submission of the demand 02/05/2000	Date of completion of this report 15.01.2001
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer Drew, C Telephone No. +49 89 2399 8494



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/US99/24824

I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of (*substitute sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17.)*):

Description, pages:

1-142 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-44 with telefax of 16/10/2000

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages:
- the claims, Nos.:
- the drawings, sheets:

5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

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International application No. PCT/US99/24824

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

II. Priority

1. This report has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the failure to furnish within the prescribed time limit the requested:
 - copy of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed.
 - translation of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed.
2. This report has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the fact that the priority claim has been found invalid.

Thus for the purposes of this report, the international filing date indicated above is considered to be the relevant date.

3. Additional observations, if necessary:

see separate sheet

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N) Yes: Claims 5
 No: Claims 1-4, 6-44

Inventive step (IS) Yes: Claims
 No: Claims 5

Industrial applicability (IA) Yes: Claims 1-44
 No: Claims

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:
see separate sheet

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the

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claims are fully supported by the description, are made:
~~s e separate sheet~~

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/US99/24824

Introduction

In response to the written opinion the applicants have amended claim 1 only and presented counter arguments to the various issues raised by the examiner, especially with respect to novelty and inventive step. However, not only has the scope of the claims not been altered in any way by the amendment made to claim 1, but the counter arguments seem to ignore the fact that compositions comprising any oligosaccharide and their use in fabric care are, in fact, being claimed. The amendment to claim 1 at page 145, lines 9 to 14 merely repeats the statement later in this claim at page 146, lines 11 to 15. For these reasons the international preliminary examination report which follows is merely a repeat of the written opinion.

Ad section II.:

WO-A-98/56890 (hereinafter referred to as D1), published on 17.12.98 and having a filing date of 09.06.98, is a prior application in the name of the same Applicant/Inventors as the present application. This document as explained in the following section V. already disclosed partly the subject-matter claimed in the present application and related to the same invention. Therefore, this document constitutes the first application for the invention claimed in the present application and already disclosed in D1; the presently claimed priority date of 23.10.98 cannot thus be allowed for the subject-matter already disclosed in D1 (see Article 8.2(a) PCT and PCT Guidelines V-1.4).

Therefore, D1 has to be considered as prior art under Rule 64.1(a) PCT.

Ad section V.:

The following documents are cited herein:

D1= WO-A-98/56890
D2= WO-A-97/11151
D3= WO-A-95/34625
D4= EP-A-0618286
D5= WO-A-96/04937

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D6= US-A-5350530

D7= JP-A-52094304 (Derwent Abstract)

Fabric care compositions comprising an oligosaccharides as required by present claim were already known from the prior art (see claims and examples of D1 through D6 and D7).

Therefore, the subject-matter of claim 1 lacks novelty (Article 33(2) PCT).

The additional features of all the remaining claims, with the exception of claim 5, are disclosed in the above mentioned documents, especially in D1 and D2, whereby D1 is novelty destroying for claims 1 to 4, 6 to 23, 28 to 33, 35, 40, 41, 43 and 44 and D2 for claims 1, 3, 4, 6 to 16, 19 to 22, 24, 25, 27 to 31, 34, 35 and 37 to 44.

In this respect, the numerous preferred embodiments specified in the claims, as well as the indication of use in the product claims, do not limit in any respect the scope of such claims. Furthermore, instructions for use must necessarily be associated to a product put on the market and they must explain the use of the product and necessarily contain pictures or icons; e.g. for identification of the producer. Therefore, all these features are inherently disclosed in the above cited prior art, which relates to industrially applicable compositions.

In the light of the prior art, e.g. D2, already disclosing the use of silicone polymers (pages 42 and 43), it was obvious for a skilled man to use a different commercially available modified silicone polymer as that of claim 5 and to expect similar results.

Therefore, the subject-matter of claim 5 does not involve an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT).

Ad section VII.:

Independent claims are not in the two-part form in accordance with Rule 6.3(b) PCT, which in the present case would be appropriate, with those features known in combination from the prior art (one of documents D1 to D7) being placed in a preamble (Rule 6.3(b)(i) PCT) and with the remaining features being included in a characterising

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part (Rule 6.3(b)(ii) PCT).

Independent claims should therefore be redrafted accordingly. If, however, the applicant is of the opinion that the two-part form would be inappropriate, then reasons therefor should be provided in the letter of reply.

Contrary to the requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT, the relevant background art disclosed in the documents D1 to D7 is not mentioned in the description, nor are these documents identified therein.

The present application comprises an exceedingly great number of claims, which does not appear to be justified by the real scope of the invention. In fact, since the subject-matter of all claims except claim 5 appears to be not novel, the set of claims should be redrafted with a minimum of independent claims (Rule 6.1(a) PCT) and taking into account the requirements of unity of invention (Rule 13.1 PCT).

The description refers to the following not published document : USSN 08/937,536 (p. 77).

Ad section VIII.:

The wordings "substituted versions of said oligosaccharides" and "derivatised versions of said oligosaccharides" in the claims are unclear insofar, as they do not identify precisely the type of derivatives falling within the scope of the claims.

09/807366

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
4 May 2000 (04.05.2000)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 00/24851 A3

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: C11D 3/22, 7/26

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/24824

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(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/105,375 23 October 1998 (23.10.1998) US

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY [US/US]; One Procter & Gamble Plaza, Cincinnati, OH 45202 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): BARNABAS, Mary, Vijayarani [BD/US]; 5777 Sawgrass Drive, West Chester, OH 45069 (US). TRINH, Toan [US/US]; 8671 Creekwood Lane, Maineville, OH 45039 (US). TORDIL, Helen, Bernardo [US/US]; 7590 West Chester Road, West Chester, OH 45069 (US).

(74) Agents: REED, T., David et al.; The Procter & Gamble Company, 5299 Spring Grove Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45217-1087 (US).

(81) Designated States (national): AE, AL, AM, AT, AT (utility model), AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, CZ (utility model), DE, DE (utility model), DK, DK (utility model), DM, EE, EE (utility model), ES, FI, FI (utility model), GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SK (utility model), SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
13 December 2001

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

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TC 1700

WO 00/24851 A3

(54) Title: FABRIC CARE COMPOSITION AND METHOD

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to fabric care compositions, methods, and articles of manufacture for treating fabrics. The compositions comprise an effective amount of fabric improving active, selected from the group consisting of oligosaccharides, preferably mixtures of oligosaccharides, especially, isomaltooligosaccharides, their individual components, substituted versions of said mixtures and/or components, derivatised versions of said mixtures and/or components, and mixtures thereof. Optionally, the composition can contain other ingredients to improve performance and formulatability. The compositions can be applied to fabric by spraying, soaking, dipping, and can also be used for pre-wash treatment, adding to the wash cycle, adding to the rinse cycle, and/or adding to the drying cycle. Preferably the compositions are applied as small particle size droplets, especially from spray containers which preferably are in association with instructions for use.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 7312M/VB	FOR FURTHER ACTION	see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.
International application No. PCT/US 99/24824	International filing date (day/month/year) 22/10/1999	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 23/10/1998
Applicant THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY et al.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 4 sheets.

It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).
- b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :
 - contained in the international application in written form.
 - filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
 - furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
 - the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
 - the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).

3. Unity of Invention is lacking (see Box II).

4. With regard to the title,

- the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
- the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,

- the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
- the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

- as suggested by the applicant.
- because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.
- because this figure better characterizes the invention.

None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 C11D3/22 C11D7/26

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C11D D06M D06P

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P, X	<p>WO 98 56890 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE) 17 December 1998 (1998-12-17)</p> <p>the whole document</p> <p>---</p> <p>-/-</p>	1-6, 15-20, 22,23, 28-33, 35,40-44

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

Date of mailing of the international search report

11 April 2000

19/04/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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Saunders, T

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 99/24824

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 97 11151 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE) 27 March 1997 (1997-03-27)	1,6,10, 11, 14-16, 19,20, 22,24, 25, 29-31, 34,35, 40-42
A	page 5, line 34 -page 6, line 3 page 53, line 8 - line 27; claims 1,7,10; example I	6,7,9, 12,13, 27,37-39
X	WO 95 34625 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE) 21 December 1995 (1995-12-21)	1,6,10, 11, 14-16, 22,24, 25, 29-31, 34,35, 40-42
X	EP 0 618 286 A (AUSIMONT SPA ;CERESTAR HOLDING BV (NL)) 5 October 1994 (1994-10-05)	1,6,10, 11, 14-16, 19,20, 24,25, 29-31, 34,35, 40-42
X	claims 1-8; example 1	1,6,10, 11, 14-16, 19,20, 24,25, 29-31, 34,35, 40-42
X	EP 0 603 931 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE) 29 June 1994 (1994-06-29)	1,6,10, 11, 14-16, 19,20, 24,25, 29-31, 34,35, 40-42
X	claim 1; example 1	1,6,10, 11, 14-16, 19,20, 24,25, 29-31, 34,35, 40-42
X	WO 96 04937 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE) 22 February 1996 (1996-02-22)	1,2,6, 15-17, 19,20, 29-33, 35,40-42
	page 33, line 5 - line 29; claims 1,6; example I	-/-

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 99/24824

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 350 530 A (KIM IK S ET AL) 27 September 1994 (1994-09-27)	1,11, 29-31, 40-43
A	claims 5-7; example 1 ---	3,4,15, 16
A	DATABASE WPI Section Ch, Week 197738 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class A97, AN 1977-67455Y XP002130569 & JP 52 094304 A (YUKEN KOGYO CO LTD), 8 August 1977 (1977-08-08)	1,6,10, 11, 14-16, 19,20, 24,25, 29-31, 34,35, 40-42
	abstract ---	
A	US 4 126 561 A (BARKER GRAHAM) 21 November 1978 (1978-11-21)	1,4,6, 13-16, 19,20, 22,27, 29-31, 35,37-43
	claims 1,4-7; example 1 ---	
A	WO 96 15310 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE) 23 May 1996 (1996-05-23)	1-6, 15-17, 19,20, 29-33, 35,40-43
	claims 1-6,9 ---	
A	WO 97 41292 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE) 6 November 1997 (1997-11-06)	1,12-16, 19,20, 22,27, 29-31, 35,37-44
	claims 19-21 ---	
A	US 3 600 325 A (BROWN WILLIAM J ET AL) 17 August 1971 (1971-08-17)	1,6, 15-17, 19,20, 29-33, 35,40-42
	claim 1 -----	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 99/24824

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
W0 9856890	A 17-12-1998	US 5955093 A US 6001343 A US 5968404 A US 5942217 A US 6033679 A AU 7961098 A EP 0988064 A EP 0988364 A EP 0988365 A WO 9856888 A WO 9856429 A WO 9856889 A US 5997759 A AU 4356997 A WO 9856337 A AU 1804699 A WO 9955814 A AU 1711099 A AU 1711199 A WO 9955813 A WO 9955815 A		21-09-1999 14-12-1999 19-10-1999 24-08-1999 07-03-2000 30-12-1998 29-03-2000 29-03-2000 17-12-1998 17-12-1998 17-12-1998 07-12-1999 30-12-1998 17-12-1998 16-11-1999 04-11-1999 16-11-1999 16-11-1999 04-11-1999 04-11-1999
W0 9711151	A 27-03-1997	BR 9610507 A CA 2232466 A CN 1202196 A CZ 9800719 A EP 0859828 A HU 9802268 A JP 11512482 T		04-05-1999 27-03-1997 16-12-1998 12-08-1998 26-08-1998 28-01-1999 26-10-1999
W0 9534625	A 21-12-1995	CA 2192549 A EP 0765378 A JP 10504329 T		21-12-1995 02-04-1997 28-04-1998
EP 0618286	A 05-10-1994	JP 6340894 A US 5496494 A		13-12-1994 05-03-1996
EP 0603931	A 29-06-1994	US 5288746 A JP 6234997 A MX 9400039 A		22-02-1994 23-08-1994 29-07-1994
W0 9604937	A 22-02-1996	US 5714137 A CA 2197441 A CN 1159762 A CZ 9700402 A EP 0774978 A HU 76679 A JP 10503953 T TR 960139 A US 5668097 A		03-02-1998 22-02-1996 17-09-1997 16-07-1997 28-05-1997 28-10-1997 14-04-1998 21-06-1996 16-09-1997
US 5350530	A 27-09-1994	KR 9411469 B JP 2701190 B JP 7258971 A		15-12-1994 21-01-1998 09-10-1995
JP 52094304	A 08-08-1977	NONE		
US 4126561	A 21-11-1978	US 4126563 A		21-11-1978

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 99/24824

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9615310 A	23-05-1996	BR 9509716 A EP 0791096 A JP 10508912 T TR 960475 A US 5798107 A ZA 9509558 A	21-10-1997 27-08-1997 02-09-1998 21-07-1996 25-08-1998 05-06-1996
WO 9741292 A	06-11-1997	NONE	
US 3600325 A	17-08-1971	NONE	

What is claimed is:

1. A fabric care composition comprising:
 - (A) an effective amount, for an unconcentrated, ready-to-use fabric care composition, preferably from 0.001% to 20%, more preferably from 0.01% to 10%, even more preferably from 0.1% to 5%, most preferably from 0.1% to 1%, by weight said fabric care composition, or for concentrated fabric care compositions, preferably from 1% to 99%, more preferably from 1% to 40%, even more preferably from 1% to 25%, and most preferably from 2% to 15%, by weight of said fabric care composition, of fabric improving active, preferably comprising
 - (i) oligosaccharides with a degree of polymerization of from 1 to 15, and wherein each monomer is selected from the group consisting of saccharide containing 5 or 6 carbon atoms, more preferably comprising isomaltooligosaccharides with a degree of polymerization of from 2 to 10, wherein the glucose units are linked by α -and/or β -linkages, even more preferably comprising isomaltooligosaccharides, contain from 3 to 7 glucose units which are linked by 1,2- α ; 1,3- α ; 1,4- α ; and 1,6- α -linkages, and mixtures of these linkages; and/or
 - (ii) oligosaccharides with a degree of polymerization of from 1 to 15, and wherein each monomer is selected from the group consisting of saccharide containing 5 or 6 carbon atoms, more preferably oligosaccharides selected from the group consisting of isomaltose, isomaltotriose, isomaltotetraose, isomaltooligosaccharide, fructooligosaccharide, levooligosaccharides, galactooligosaccharide, xylooligosaccharide, gentiooligosaccharides, disaccharides, glucose, fructose, galactose, xylose, mannose, arabinose, rhamnose, maltose, sucrose, lactose, maltulose, ribose, lyxose, allose, altrose, gulose, idose, talose, trehalose, nigerose, kojibiose, lactulose, oligosaccharides, maltooligosaccharides,

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ART 32 AND 33

trisaccharides, tetrasaccharides, pentasaccharides, hexasaccharides, oligosaccharides from partial hydrolysates of natural polysaccharide sources, and mixtures thereof,

for providing a fabric with at least one of the following fabric care benefits: wrinkle removal and/or reduction, fabric wear reduction, fabric pilling reduction, fabric color fading reduction, fabric color maintenance, fabric color restoration, fabric soiling reduction, fabric shape retention, and/or fabric shrinkage reduction, said fabric improving active being selected from the group consisting of oligosaccharides, oligosaccharide mixtures, substituted versions of said oligosaccharides and/or mixtures, derivatised versions of said oligosaccharides and/or mixtures, and mixtures thereof;

- (B) optionally, to remove and/or reduce wrinkles, an effective amount of adjunct wrinkle control agent, preferably a copolymer of hydrophilic monomers and hydrophobic monomers, selected from the group consisting of fiber lubricant (preferably a silicone), shape retention polymer (preferably from 0.05% to 10% by weight of the fabric care composition, of a shape retention polymer which is a homopolymer and/or a copolymer, preferably a copolymer of hydrophilic monomers and hydrophobic monomers, preferably having a hydrophobic monomer/hydrophilic monomer ratio of from 95:5 to 20:80, by weight of the copolymer), lithium salts (preferably from 0.1% to 10% by weight of the usage composition, of lithium salt, or hydrate thereof, selected from the group consisting of: lithium bromide, lithium lactate, lithium chloride, lithium tartrate, lithium bitartrate, and mixtures thereof), and mixtures thereof;
- (C) optionally, to reduce surface tension, and/or to improve performance and formulatability, an effective amount of surfactant;
- (D) optionally, an effective amount to absorb malodor, of odor control agent, preferably from 0.01% to 5%, preferably from 0.1% to 4%, more preferably from 0.5% to 2%, by weight of the usage composition, of an odor control agent selected from the group consisting of cyclodextrin, zinc salt, copper salt, water soluble carbonate salt, water soluble bicarbonate salt, water soluble anionic polymer, and mixtures thereof.;
- (E) optionally, an effective amount to provide olfactory effects of perfume;

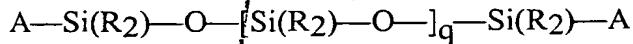
REPLACED BY
ART 34 ANDT

- (F) optionally, an effective amount, to kill, or reduce the growth of microbes, of antimicrobial active;
 - (G) optionally, an effective amount, to provide improved antimicrobial action, of aminocarboxylate chelator;
 - (H) optionally, an effective amount of antimicrobial preservative, in addition to, or in place of said antimicrobial active; and
 - (I) optionally, an aqueous carrier,
- said composition optionally being essentially free of any material that would soil or stain fabric under usage conditions.

2. The composition of Claim 1 wherein said composition comprises a silicone fiber lubricant wherein the silicone is volatile, preferably of the formula: $[(CH_3)_2SiO]_5$, and is present at a level of from 0.1% to 5%, by weight of the composition.

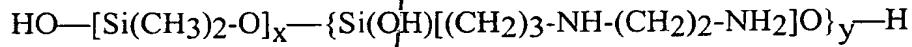
3. The composition of Claim 1 wherein said composition comprises a silicone fiber lubricant wherein the silicone is present at a level of from 0.1% to 5% by weight of the composition, and is selected from the group consisting of:

- a. polyalkyl silicone with the following structure:



wherein each R is an alkyl, a hydroxy, or a hydroxyalkyl group, and mixtures thereof, having less than 8 carbon atoms; q is an integer from 7 to 8,000; each A is a group selected from hydrogen, methyl, methoxy, ethoxy, hydroxy, and propoxy;

- b. silicone having the formula:



wherein x and y are integers;

- c. silicone material having the formula:



wherein G is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, OH, and/or C₁-C₅ alkyl; a denotes 0 or an integer from 1 to 3; b denotes 0 or 1; the sum of n + m is a number from 1 to 2,000; R¹ is a monovalent radical of formula C_pH_{2p}L in which p is an integer from 2 to 4 and L is selected from the group consisting of:

-N(R²)CH₂-CH₂-N(R²)₂;

-N(R²)₂;

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$-N^+(R^2)_3 A^-$; and

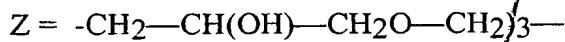
$-N^+(R^2)CH_2-CH_2N^+H_2 A^-$

wherein each R^2 is chosen from the group consisting of hydrogen, a C₁-C₅ saturated hydrocarbon radical, and each A^- denotes compatible anion;

d. silicones having the formula:



wherein

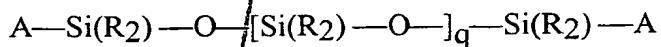


R^3 denotes a long chain alkyl group; and

f denotes an integer of at least 2; and

e. mixtures thereof;

preferably the silicone is polydialkyl silicone



with A and R groups being methyl.

4. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the composition comprises a shape retention polymer wherein the shape retention polymer is a homopolymer and/or copolymer having a glass transition temperature of from -20°C to 150°C and comprising monomers selected from the group consisting low molecular weight C₁-C₆ unsaturated organic mono-carboxylic and /or polycarboxylic acids; esters of said acids with C₁-C₁₂ alcohols; amides and imides of said acids; low molecular weight unsaturated alcohols; esters of low molecular weight unsaturated alcohols with low molecular weight carboxylic acids; ethers of low molecular weight unsaturated alcohols; polar vinyl heterocyclics; unsaturated amines and amides; salts of said amines with low molecular weight carboxylic acids; C₁-C₄ alkyl quaternized derivatives of said amines; vinyl sulfonate; low molecular weight unsaturated hydrocarbons and derivatives; and mixtures thereof; preferably the monomers are selected from the group consisting of: acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, crotonic acid, maleic acid and its half esters, itaconic acid, and esters of said acids with methanol, ethanol, 1-propanol, 2-propanol, 1-butanol, 2-methyl-1-propanol, 1-pentanol, 2-pentanol, 3-pentanol, 2-methyl-1-butanol, 1-methyl-1-butanol, 3-methyl-1-butanol, 1-methyl-1-pentanol, 2-methyl-1-pentanol, 3-methyl-1-pentanol, t-butanol, cyclohexanol, 2-ethyl-1-butanol, neodecanol, 3-heptanol, benzyl alcohol, 2-octanol, 6-methyl-1-heptanol, 2-ethyl-1-hexanol, 3,5-dimethyl-1-hexanol, 3,5,5-trimethyl-1-hexanol, 1-decanol, 1-dodecanol, and mixtures thereof; methyl acrylate; ethyl

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acrylate; t-butyl acrylate; methyl methacrylate; hydroxyethyl methacrylate; methoxy ethyl methacrylate; N,N-dimethylacrylamide; N-t-butyl acrylamide; maleimides; vinyl alcohol; allyl alcohol; vinyl acetate; vinyl propionate; methyl vinyl ether; vinyl pyrrolidone; vinyl caprolactam; vinyl pyridine; vinyl imidazole; vinyl amine; diethylene triamine; dimethylaminoethyl methacrylate; ethenyl formamide; vinyl sulfonate; ethylene; propylene; butadiene; cyclohexadiene; vinyl chloride; vinylidene chloride; salts thereof and alkyl quaternized derivatives thereof; and mixtures thereof; more preferably the monomers are selected from the group consisting of: acrylic acid; methacrylic acid; methyl acrylate; ethyl acrylate; methyl methacrylate; t-butyl acrylate; t-butyl methacrylate; n-butyl acrylate; n-butyl methacrylate; isobutyl methacrylate; 2-ethylhexyl methacrylate; vinyl alcohol; dimethylaminoethyl methacrylate; N,N-dimethyl acrylamide; N,N-dimethyl methacrylamide; N-t-butyl acrylamide; vinylpyrrolidone; vinyl pyridine; adipic acid; diethylenetriamine; salts thereof and alkyl quaternized derivatives thereof; and mixtures thereof.

5. The composition of Claim 1 wherein said shape retention polymer comprises silicone-containing graft and block copolymers having the following properties:

(1) the silicone portion is covalently attached to the non-silicone portion;
(2) the molecular weight of the silicone portion is from 1,000 to 50,000; and the non-silicone portion must render the entire copolymer soluble or dispersible in the fabric care composition vehicle and permit the copolymer to deposit on/adhere to the treated fabrics; preferably said shape retention polymer has an average molecular weight of from 10,000 to 1,000,000, preferably from 30,000 to 300,000, and comprises from 5% to 50%, preferably from 10% to 25% of silicone-containing monomers.

6. The composition of any of Claims 1-5 additionally containing at least one of the following adjunct materials: perfume, fiber lubricant, shape retention polymer, lithium salt, odor control agent including cyclodextrin, surfactant, antimicrobial active, antibacterial preservative, chelating agent including aminocarboxylate chelating agent, enzyme, antioxidant, static control agent, fabric softening active, suds suppressor, dye transfer inhibiting agent, dye fixing agent, soil release agent, brightener, dispersant, insect repelling agent, moth repelling agent, and/or liquid carrier.

7. A fabric care composition according to any of Claims 1-6 which is a rinse-added composition containing from 0.1% to 50%, preferably from 1% to 35%, more preferably from 2% to 18%, and even more preferably from 3% to 10%, by weight of

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the composition, of said fabric improving active, and optionally containing fabric softener active at a level of from 1% to 75%, preferably from 2% to 65%, more preferably from 3% to 45%, and even more preferably from 4% to 35%, by weight of the composition.

8. The composition of Claim 7 wherein said fabric softening active has an Iodine Value of at least 40, and has a phase transition temperature of less than 50°C, preferably less than 35°C, more preferably less than 20°C, said composition additionally comprising:

- (A). optionally, less than 40%, preferably from 1% to 25%, more preferably from 3% to 8%, by weight of the composition, of principal solvent having a ClogP of from -2.0 to 2.6, preferably from -1.7 to 1.6, more preferably from -1.0 to 1.0;
- (B). optionally, from 0.1 % to 10%, preferably from 0.5% to 2.5%, by weight of the composition, of electrolyte;
- (C). optionally, from 0.1% to 15%, preferably from 0.5% to 7%, more preferably from 1% to 6%, by weight of the composition of phase stabilizer, preferably being a surfactant containing alkoxylation and having an HLB of from 8 to 20, preferably from 10 to 18; and
- (D). the balance water, minor ingredients and/or water soluble solvents.

9. The fabric care composition of Claims 8 or 9 additionally containing at least an effective amount of at least one of the following adjunct materials: perfume, dye transfer inhibiting agent, dye fixative agent, chlorine scavenging agent, soil release agent, chemical stabilizer including antioxidant, silicone, antimicrobial active and/or preservative, metal chelating agent including aminocarboxylate chelating agent, colorant, enzyme, brightener, liquid carrier, or mixtures thereof.

10. A fabric care composition according to any of Claims 1-6 which is a laundry detergent composition containing from 0.2% to 30% by weight of the composition, of said fabric improving active and from 0.1% to 60% by weight of the composition, of surfactant, and additionally containing at least one of the following adjunct materials: perfume, builder, bleaching agent, dye transfer inhibiting agent, dye fixative agent, odor control agent including cyclodextrin, brightener, dispersant, heavy metal chelating agent, enzyme, suds suppressor, fabric softening agent, soil release agent, and/or liquid carrier.

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11. The composition of Claim 10 wherein said composition is in the form selected from the group consisting of liquid, powder, granules, tablets, paste, gel, foam, spray, bar, stick, and optionally contained in a pouch or attached to a releasable substrate.
12. A fabric care composition according to any of Claims 1-6 which is an aqueous composition to apply to fabric in the drying step, containing said fabric improving active at a level of from 0.01% to 25%, preferably from 0.1% to 10%, more preferably from 0.2% to 5%, even more preferably from 0.3% to 3%, by weight of the compositions, and optionally containing fabric softener active at a level of from 0.05% to 10%, preferably from 0.1% to 7%, more preferably from 0.5% to 5%, by weight of the composition.
13. A fabric care composition according to any of Claims 1-6 which is a dryer-added fabric softening composition containing said fabric improving active at a level of from 0.01% to 40%, preferably from 0.1% to 20%, more preferably from 1% to 10%, by weight of the composition, and fabric softener active at a level of from 1% to 99%, preferably from 10% to 80%, more preferably from 20% to 70%, and even more preferably from 25% to 60%, by weight of the composition.
14. The fabric care composition according to any of Claims 10-13 additionally containing at least an effective amount of at least one of the following adjunct materials: perfume, chlorine scavenging agent, dye transfer inhibiting agent, dye fixative agent, chemical stabilizer including antioxidant, silicone, antimicrobial active and/or preservative, metal chelating agent including aminocarboxylate chelating agent, brightener, enzyme, soil release agent, liquid carrier, or mixtures thereof.
15. An article of manufacture comprising a fabric care composition comprising fabric improving active for providing a fabric with at least one of the following fabric care benefits: wrinkle removal and/or reduction, fabric wear reduction, fabric pilling reduction, fabric color fading reduction, fabric color maintenance, fabric color restoration, fabric soiling reduction, fabric shape retention, and/or fabric shrinkage reduction, said fabric improving active being selected from the group consisting of oligosaccharides, oligosaccharide mixtures, substituted versions of said oligosaccharides and/or mixtures, derivatised versions of said oligosaccharides and/or mixtures, and mixtures thereof, in a package in association with instructions for use which direct the

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consumer to apply at least an effective amount of said fabric improving active to provide at least one of said fabric care benefits.

16. An article of manufacture comprising the fabric care composition of Claim 1 in a package in association with instructions for use which direct the consumer to apply at least an effective amount of said fabric improving active and/or said fabric care composition, to provide at least one of the following fabric care benefits: wrinkle removal and/or reduction, fabric wear reduction, fabric pilling reduction, fabric color maintenance, fabric color fading reduction, fabric color restoration, fabric soiling reduction, fabric soil release, fabric shape retention and/or fabric shrinkage reduction.

17. An article of manufacture comprising the composition of Claim 1 in a spray dispenser, preferably comprising a trigger spray device or a non-manually operated spray dispenser, preferably said composition is an aqueous composition containing from 0.1% to 5%, preferably from 0.1% to 2%, by weight of said composition, of said fabric improving active.

18. The article of manufacture of Claim 17 wherein said spray dispenser comprises a non-manually operated spray dispenser selected from the group consisting of: powered sprayer; air aspirated sprayer; liquid aspirated sprayer; electrostatic sprayer; and nebulizer sprayer.

19. The article of manufacture according to any of Claims 15-18 wherein said composition additionally contains at least one of the following adjunct materials: perfume, fiber lubricant, shape retention polymer, lithium salt, odor control agent including cyclodextrin, surfactant, antimicrobial active, antibacterial preservative, metal chelating agent including aminocarboxylate chelating agent, enzyme, static control agent, fabric softening active, dye transfer inhibiting agent, dye fixing agent, soil release agent, brightener, antioxidant, suds suppressor, insect repelling agent, moth repelling agent, and/or liquid carrier.

20. The article of manufacture according to any of Claims 17-19 in association with instructions for use to direct the consumer to apply at least an effective amount of said composition and/or said fabric improving active to said fabric, to provide said fabric with at least one of the following fabric care benefits: wrinkle removal and/or reduction, fabric wear reduction, fabric pilling reduction, fabric color fading reduction, fabric color maintenance, fabric color restoration, fabric soiling reduction, fabric shape retention,

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and/or fabric shrinkage reduction, preferably wherein the instructions for use direct the consumer to apply an amount of composition to provide from 0.005% to 4%, preferably from 0.01% to 2%, more preferably from 0.05% to 1% of fabric improving active, by weight of the fabric, more preferably wherein the instructions for use direct the consumer to apply the composition to the fabric in combination with stretching and/or smoothing of fabric, to provide effective wrinkle removal.

21. An article of manufacture comprising the concentrated fabric care composition of Claim 1 with instructions for use to direct the consumer to dilute said composition to form the unconcentrated, ready-to-use fabric care composition of Claim 1.

22. An article of manufacture comprising the composition of Claim 1 to be applied directly to said fabric in a manner such that excessive amounts of the fabric/garment care composition are prevented from being released to the open environment, packaged in association with instructions for use which direct the consumer to apply at least an effective amount of said fabric improving active to said fabric in said manner to provide said fabric care benefits, preferably said composition contains from 0.01% to 2% of fabric improving active, by weight of the composition.

23. An article of manufacture comprising the composition of Claim 1 to pretreat said fabric before washing, packaged in association with instructions for use which direct the consumer to apply at least an effective amount of said composition to said fabric to provide said fabric care benefits.

24. An article of manufacture comprising the composition of Claim 1 which is a wash additive composition, packaged in association with instructions for use which direct the consumer to apply at least an effective amount of said composition to said fabric to provide said fabric care benefits.

25. An article of manufacture comprising the composition according to any of Claims 1-6, 10 and 11 which is a laundry detergent composition, packaged in association with instructions for use which direct the consumer to apply at least an effective amount of said composition to said fabric to provide the fabric care benefits.

26. An article of manufacture comprising the composition according to any of Claims 1-9 which is a rinse additive composition, packaged in association with

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instructions for use which direct the consumer to apply at least an effective amount of said composition to said fabric to provide said fabric care benefits.

27. An article of manufacture comprising the composition according to any of Claims 1-6, 12 and 13 to apply to fabric in the drying step, packaged in association with instructions for use which direct the consumer to apply at least an effective amount of said composition to said fabric to provide said fabric care benefits.

28. The article according to any of Claims 15-16 and 20-27 wherein said instructions for use include pictures and/or icons.

29. Fabric, preferably a cellulosic fabric, more preferably selected from the group consisting of cotton, rayon, ramie, jute, flax, linen, polynosic-fibers, polyester/cotton blends, and mixtures thereof, most preferably selected from the group consisting of cotton, rayon, linen, polyester/cotton blends, other cotton blends, and mixtures thereof, having improved characteristics having an effective amount of fabric improving active attached hereto, preferably wherein said fabric comprises from 0.005% to 4%, preferably from 0.01% to 2%, more preferably from 0.1% to 1%, by weight of the fabric of said fabric improving active.

30. A method for providing a fabric with a fabric care benefit selected from the group consisting of: wrinkle removal and/or reduction, fabric wear reduction, fabric pilling reduction, fabric color fading reduction, fabric soiling reduction, fabric shape retention, fabric shrinkage reduction and mixtures thereof, wherein said method comprises contacting said fabric with an effective amount of the fabric improving active selected from the group consisting of oligosaccharides, oligosaccharide mixtures, substituted versions of said oligosaccharides and/or mixtures, derivatised versions of said oligosaccharides and/or mixtures, and mixtures thereof.

31. A method for providing a fabric with a fabric care benefit selected from the group consisting of: wrinkle removal and/or reduction, fabric wear reduction, fabric pilling reduction, fabric color fading reduction, fabric soiling reduction, fabric shape retention, fabric shrinkage reduction and mixtures thereof, wherein said method comprises contacting said fabric with an effective amount of the fabric improving active, preferably wherein said fabric improving active is provided by an aqueous composition containing from 0.1% to 5%, preferably from 0.005% to 4%, more preferably 0.01% to 2%, and

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even more preferably from 0.1% to 1%, by weight of said fabric care composition, of said fabric improving active, wherein said fabric improving active is provided by using the fabric care composition according to any of Claims 1-14, preferably wherein said fabric care composition additionally comprises at least one of the following adjunct fabric care materials: perfume, fiber lubricant, shape retention polymer, lithium salt, odor control agent including cyclodextrin, surfactant, antimicrobial active, antibacterial preservative, aminocarboxylate chelating agent, enzyme, static control agent, fabric softening agent, dye transfer inhibiting agent, dye fixing agent, soil release agent, brightener, antioxidant, suds suppressor, insect repelling agent, moth repelling agent, and/or liquid carrier.

32. The method according to Claim 31 wherein said fabric improving active is provided by an aqueous composition that is sprayed onto said fabric as droplets, preferably having a weight average diameter of from 5 μm to 250 μm , more preferably from 10 μm to 120 μm , and most preferably from 20 μm to 100 μm , by using a spray dispenser, preferably in combination with stretching and/or smoothing of said fabric.
33. The method according to Claim 32 wherein said spray dispenser comprises a trigger spray device or a non-manually operated sprayer selected from the group consisting of: power sprayer; air aspirated sprayer; liquid aspirated sprayer; electrostatic sprayer; and nebulizer sprayer.
34. The method according to Claim 31 wherein said fabric is dipped and/or soaked in said aqueous fabric care composition, preferably containing from 0.5% to 40%, by weight of said fabric care composition, of said fabric improving active, followed by a squeezing step and/or a drying step, or followed by a laundering step.

35. The method according to Claim 31 wherein said fabric care composition contains from 0.2% to 30% by weight of the composition, of said fabric improving active and from 0.1% to 60% by weight of the composition, of surfactant, and additionally contains at least one of the following adjunct materials: perfume, builder, bleaching agent, dye transfer inhibiting agent, dye fixing agent, odor control agent including cyclodextrin, brightener, dispersant, heavy metal chelating agent, enzyme, suds suppressor, fabric softening active, soil release agent, liquid carrier, or mixtures thereof.

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36. The method according to Claim 31 wherein said fabric care composition is a rinse-added composition containing from 0.1% to 50%, preferably from 1% to 35%, more preferably from 2% to 18%, by weight of the composition, of said fabric improving active, and optionally containing fabric softener active at a level of from 1% to 75%, preferably from 2% to 65%, more preferably from 3% to 45%, and even more preferably from 4% to 35%, by weight of the composition, preferably wherein said fabric care composition additionally contains at least one of the following adjunct materials: perfume, odor control agent including cyclodextrin, dye transfer inhibiting agent, dye fixative agent, chlorine scavenging agent, soil release agent, chemical stabilizer including antioxidant, silicone, antimicrobial active and/or preservative, metal chelating agent including aminocarboxylate chelating agent, colorant, enzyme, brightener, bluing agent, liquid carrier, or mixtures thereof.

37. The method according to Claim 31 wherein said fabric care composition is an aqueous composition to apply to fabric in the drying step, containing said fabric improving active at a level of from 0.01% to 25%, preferably from 0.1% to 10%, more preferably from 0.2% to 5%, even more preferably from 0.3% to 3%, by weight of the compositions, and optionally containing fabric softener active at a level of from 0.05% to 10%, preferably from 0.1% to 7%, more preferably from 0.5% to 5%, by weight of the composition, preferably wherein said composition is applied from a spray device.

38. The method according to Claim 31 wherein said fabric care composition is a dryer-added fabric softening composition containing said fabric improving active at a level of from 0.01% to 40%, preferably from 0.1% to 20%, more preferably from 1% to 10%, by weight of the composition, and fabric softener active at a level of from 1% to 99%, preferably from 10% to 80%, more preferably from 20% to 70%, and even more preferably from 25% to 60%, by weight of the composition, preferably wherein said composition is released from a flexible substrate.

39. The method according to Claim 37 or 38 wherein said composition additionally contains at least one of the following adjunct materials: static control agent, distributing agent, perfume, fiber lubricant, adjunct shape retention polymer, lithium salt, odor control agent including cyclodextrin, dye transfer inhibiting agent, dye fixative agent, chlorine scavenging agent, soil release agent, brightener, heavy metal chelating agent, enzyme, antimicrobial active, antibacterial preservative, aminocarboxylate chelating agent, antioxidant, and/or liquid carrier.

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40. A method for removing fabric wrinkles by treating said fabric with the composition according to any of Claims 1-14.
41. A method for reducing fabric wear by treating said fabric with the composition according to any of Claims 1-14.
42. A method for providing fabric color care benefits selected from the group consisting of fabric color maintenance, fabric color fading reduction, fabric color restoration, and mixtures thereof, by treating said color fabric with an effective amount of the composition according to any of Claims 1-14.
43. Use of fabric improving active in a fabric care composition to provide a fabric with at least one of the following fabric care benefits: wrinkle removal and/or reduction, fabric wear reduction, fabric pilling reduction, fabric color fading reduction, fabric color maintenance, fabric color restoration, fabric soiling reduction, fabric shape retention, and/or fabric shrinkage reduction, said fabric improving active being selected from the group consisting of oligosaccharides, oligosaccharide mixtures, substituted versions of said oligosaccharides and/or mixtures, derivatised versions of said oligosaccharides and/or mixtures, and mixtures thereof.
44. An article of manufacture comprising the composition according to any of Claims 1-14 to be applied directly to a garment in a manner such that excessive amounts of the fabric care composition are prevented from being released to the open environment, packaged in association with instructions for use which direct the consumer to apply at least an effective amount of said fabric improving active to said garment in said manner to provide said fabric care benefits, preferably comprising from 0.01% to 2% of fabric improving active, by weight of the composition.

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